

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting January 8th , 2020 at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

Officers Present - Bill Reinert – Chairman, Mike Hogan – Vice Chairman

Members Present - Ken Sooy, Stephen Fielder, Jill Miles, Dick Colby

Members Absent - Heather Warburton

Freeholder Representative – James Bertino - present

County Staff - Greg Brookins, D.H.P.W - present

Secretary - Eric Husta – D.D.P.R. – present

Member of the Public - Chris Bonsall

The meeting opened with a flag salute at 7:05 PM

New Business:

Reorganization for 2020. Bill Reinert was nominated as Chairman and Mike Hogan as Vice Chairman. All voted in favor.

Guest Lecturer:

The guest lecturer for the evening was Liz Sewell, Trail Development Manager for the Rails to Trails Conservancy. She gave a very informative presentation on greenway implementation with a focus on the Atlantic Avenue Rail-with-Trail and the potential for regional connections between Atlantic County and Gloucester and Camden Counties.

Once the presentation concluded, there was discussion on potential steps to get Bikeway West completed. Liz suggested conducting a feasibility study while identifying funding for consultation and design. She also mentioned the ability to acquire LTA (local technical assistance) which is provided free of charge through NJDOT. Once a feasibility study is underway focus could be placed on finding funding for design and construction.

Liz also suggested assembling a meeting with local representatives to garner support while selecting a group of individuals to serve as members of a bike/pedestrian trail team. *A pdf version of her presentation is included with the minutes in the event members would like to review it.*

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Roundtable Discussion topics:

Most of the discussion was delayed until our next meeting in February. Mike Hogan briefly discussed the elimination of the PILOT program and the effect it has had on certain municipalities around the county.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 5th, 2020, at 7 PM at the Canale Training Center in EHT.

cc: Dennis Levinson, County Executive
Jerry DelRosso, County Administrator
Diana Rutala, Dep. County Administrator
Amy Gatto, Chairwoman - Board of Freeholders
James Bertino, Board of Freeholders – PEAB Representative
Greg Brookins, Dept. Head Public Works
All Advisory Board Members